



*Connecticut Business & Industry Association*

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**TESTIMONY OF  
ERIC J. BROWN  
BEFORE THE  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

Good morning. My name is Eric Brown and I am an associate counsel with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 Connecticut businesses, both small and large companies throughout Connecticut. Approximately 90% of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees. CBIA appreciates this opportunity to communicate to you regarding:

**RAISED BILL NO. 5589, AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELDS**

CBIA has long advocated for policies and practices that foster the revitalization of brownfield properties in Connecticut. The benefits of redeveloping these sites are numerous and substantial. They include: job creation; additional property tax revenues; environmental cleanup; responsible growth; and urban revitalization.

While Connecticut has a limited number of high-profile success stories in redeveloping brownfields, our overall success is quite limited. Hundreds of properties – many located in our cities, currently sit abandoned and contaminated while the marketplace pulls new economic development to the suburbs and rural areas.

Connecticut's approach to brownfield redevelopment is generally based on a model involving substantial agency control of many aspects of these projects. In our view, Connecticut will never have the resources to have a successful brownfield program if it continues to follow this time-consuming, expensive and